

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS.

Claims 1-13 (CANCELLED).

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An applicator for use in reflexotherapy, comprising:

a base member;

a plurality of needles fixed within said base member;

each said needle comprising a rod member having a predetermined diameter and provided with a sharpened portion at a first end of said rod member, and provided with a head portion at a second end of said rod member;

said head portion being wider than the diameter of said rod member;

said rod member having its central elongated axis disposed in a first predetermined direction;

all said head portions having their major planar surface disposed in one and only one flat plane which is oriented perpendicular to said first predetermined direction and to said central elongated axis of said rod member;

each said needle being fixed in said base member so that said sharpened portion protrudes from said base member;

said rod member being made from a base material;

said needles including one or more first needles being made from and/or coated with a first material, and one or more second needles being made from and/or coated with a second material;

one or more third needles being made from and/or coated with a third material having a different electrochemical potential than that of said first and second materials;

each said needle being surrounded with needles whose base materials and coatings are made from different materials;

said needles are disposed in said applicator in a configuration in which adjacent

needles having said sharpened portion exposed to said surface of contact with the user's epidermis are either coated with and/or made from different materials;

one or more of said needles being partially covered with a coating;

the coating on one or more of said needles comprises a multilayer coating;

the material comprising said needles and/or coatings is selected from steel, copper, chromium, nickel, silver, cobalt, aluminum, magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, vanadium, beryllium, gold, platinum, palladium, strontium, tellurium or alloys and oxides thereof;

said first and second materials having different electrochemical potentials; and

said partially-covered needles expose a surface of contact between each needle and a user's epidermis to at least said first and second materials.

Claims 15-23 (CANCELLED)

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An applicator for use in reflexotherapy, comprising:

a base member;

a plurality of needles fixed within said base member;

each said needle comprising a rod, a sharpened portion, and a head;

each said needle being fixed in said base member so that said sharpened portion protrudes from said base member;

said rod having its central elongated axis disposed in a first predetermined direction and having a diameter which is ~~oriented~~ oriented perpendicular to said first predetermined direction;

said head being wider than the diameter of said rod, and all said heads having ~~its~~ their major planar surface disposed in one and only one flat plane which is oriented perpendicular to said first predetermined direction and to said central elongated axis of said rod;

said needles being partially covered with a coating;

said needles including at least a first set of needles being made from and/or coated with a first material, and a second set of needles being made from and/or coated with a second material;

said first and second materials having different electrochemical potential;

said needles being partially covered with a coating to expose a surface of contact between each needle and a user's epidermis to at least said first and second materials having said different electrochemical potentials;

at least one further set of needles being made from and/or coated with a further material having a different electrochemical potential than that of said first and/or second set of needles;

the coating on at least some of said needles comprises a multilayer coating;

said needles are disposed in said applicator in a configuration in which adjacent needles have said sharpened portion exposed to said surface of contact with the user's epidermis are either coated with and/or made from different materials; and

the material comprising said needles and/or coatings is selected from steel, copper, chromium, nickel, silver, cobalt, aluminum, magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, vanadium, beryllium, gold, platinum, palladium, strontium, tellurium or alloys and oxides thereof.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator, comprising:

a base member and needles fixed therein;

each of said needles comprising a base with a rod, a sharpened portion, and a head;

each said needle being fixed in said base member so that said sharpened portion protrudes from said base member;

said rod having its central elongated axis disposed in a first predetermined direction, and having a diameter which is oriented perpendicular to said first predetermined direction;

said head being wider than the diameter of said rod, and all said heads having their major planar surface disposed in one and only one flat plane which is oriented perpendicular to said first predetermined direction and to said central elongated axis of said rod;

said needle bases being made of steel, copper, chromium, nickel, or silver, and provided with a coat made of chromium, nickel, copper, or silver;

at least a portion of said needles being made with solid and/or partial coats;

in the case of partial coating of said needle bases, the areas close to said sharpened portions thereof are formed by at least two materials having different electrochemical potentials;

needle bases and coats are made of chemical elements selected from a group additionally including cobalt, aluminum, magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, vanadium, beryllium, gold, platinum, palladium, strontium, tellurium, and alloys and oxides thereof; and

said needles are arranged in said applicator in such a way that adjacent needles comprise different base and coat materials.